Applicant : Roy Ben-Yoseph   Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-540001 / Security 30
Serial No. : 10/747,678
Filed   : December 30, 2003
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of <u>controlling aspects of communications between a user and senders</u> ~~displaying e-mail~~:

maintaining a list of identities associated with a user;

<u>receiving one or more e-mails from an entity and directed to the user;</u>

<u>detecting one or more actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity, the actions supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user;</u>

determining that [[an]]<u>the</u> entity is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the detected ~~positive user~~ actions <u>performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user</u> ~~related to e-mail communications with the entity~~;

adding the entity to the maintained list when the entity is determined to be associated with the user based, at least in part, on the <u>detected</u> ~~positive~~ actions <u>performed on the received one or more e-mails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user</u> ~~related to e-mail communications with the entity~~;

receiving one or more e-mails directed to the user;

identifying senders of the received e-mail;

comparing the identified senders to the maintained list of identities associated with the user to determine which of the senders are included ~~on~~ <u>in</u> the <u>maintained</u> list;

~~displaying a list of the e-mail to the user; and~~

~~sorting the displayed list based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list~~

<u>controlling aspects of communications between the user and the senders based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list.</u>

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]]44 wherein sorting the display based on which of the senders are included in the list comprises sorting the display such that e-mails from ~~identities~~senders on the list are grouped in one position of the display.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]]44 wherein sorting the display based on which of the senders are included in the list comprises sorting the display such that e-mails from ~~identities~~senders on the list are displayed and e-mails from ~~identities~~senders not on the list are not displayed.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~on~~ the detected ~~positive~~ actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that supports an inference that the entity is associated with the user include replying to, forwarding, saving, or printing an e-mail received from the entity.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~on~~ the detected ~~positive~~ actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user include moving an e-mail from a first folder to a second folder.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~on~~ the detected ~~positive~~ actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that supports an inference that the

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entity is associated with the user include leaving an e-mail from the entity open for a predetermined period of time.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

    ~~inferring~~ determining that a ~~person~~ second entity is associated with the user based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the ~~person~~ second entity;

    adding the ~~inferred person~~ the second entity to the maintained list when the second entity is determined to be associated with the user.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication is an instant messaging communication.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~inferring that a person is associated with the user and adding the person to the maintained list, wherein inferring comprises~~ adding a second entity to the maintained list when the second entity is determined to be associated with the user based, at least in part, on:

    accessing a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list; and

    accessing a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining that a second entity ~~person~~ is not associated with the user based, at least in part, on detecting user actions that negate an inference that ~~a person~~ the second entity is associated with the user.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the ~~user~~ detected actions comprise moving a communication from the ~~person~~ entity to either of a spam folder or a delete folder.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

enabling the user to expressly designate a person as associated with the user; and

adding the designated person to the list.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~people~~ identities associated with the user are ~~people~~ identities known to the user.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having a computer program embodied thereon for displaying e-mail, the computer program comprising instructions for causing a computer to perform the following operations:

maintain a list of identities associated with a user;

receive one or more emails from an entity and directed to the user;

detect one or more actions performed by the user on the received one or more emails from the entity, the actions performed by the user supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user;

determine that an entity is associated with the user based, at least in part, on detected ~~positive user~~ actions performed by the user on the received one or more emails; ~~related to e-mail communications with the entity~~;

add the person to the maintained list when the entity is determined to be associated with the user based, at least in part, on the detected ~~positive user~~ actions performed by the user on the received one or more emails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user ~~related to e-mail communications with the entity~~;

receive one or more e-mails directed to the user;

identify senders of the received e-mail;

compare the identified senders to the maintained list of people associated with the user to determine which of the senders are included on the list; and

~~display a list of the e-mail to the user; and~~

~~sort the displayed list based on which of the senders are included in the list~~

control aspects of communications between the user and the identified senders based on

the determination of which identified senders are included on the list..

21.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim [[20]]45 wherein, to sort the display based on
which of the senders are included in the list, the computer program further comprises instructions
for causing a computer to sort display such that e-mails from ~~identities~~senders on the list are
grouped in one position of the display.

22.   (Currently Amended)) The medium of claim [[20]]45 wherein, to sort the display based on
which of the senders are included in the list, the computer program further comprises instructions
for causing a computer to sort the display such that e-mails from ~~identities~~senders on the list are
displayed and e-mails from identities not on the list are not displayed.

23.   (Currently Amended)) The medium of claim [[20]]45 wherein, to sort the display based on
which of the senders are included in the list, the computer program further comprises instructions
for causing a computer to sort the display such that e-mails from ~~identities~~senders on the list are
not displayed and e-mails from identities on the list are not displayed.

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Cancelled)

26.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim [[21]]20 wherein the ~~positive~~ detected
actions performed by the user supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user
include replying to, forwarding, saving, or printing an e-mail received from the entity.

27.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim [[21]] 20 wherein the positive detected actions performed by the user supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user include moving an e-mail from a first folder to a second folder.

28.   (Original) The medium of claim 27 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder.

29.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim [[24]] 20 wherein the positive detected actions performed by the user supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user includes leaving an e-mail from the entity open for a predetermined period of time.

30.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 20 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

    infer determine that a second entity person is associated with the user based, at least in part, on detecting a communication between the user and the person second entity;

    add the inferred person the second entity to the maintained list when the second entity is determined to be associated with the user.

31.   (Original) The medium of claim 30 wherein the communication is an instant messaging communication.

32.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 20 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to infer that a person is associated with the user, add the person to the maintained list, and wherein, to infer that a person is associated with the user, the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

    access a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list; and

    access a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list.

33.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 20 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to determine that ~~a person~~ second entity is not associated with the user based, at least in part, on detecting user actions that negate an inference that a person is associated with the user.

34.   (Cancelled)

35.   (Cancelled)

36.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 33 wherein the ~~user~~ detected actions performed by the user comprise moving a communication from the person to either of a spam folder or a delete folder.

37.   (Original) The medium of claim 20 wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

          enable the user to expressly designate a person as associated with the user; and
          add the designated person to the list.

38.   (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 20 wherein the ~~people~~ identities associated with the user are ~~people~~identites known to the user.

39.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling aspects of communications between a user and senders~~displaying e-mail~~:

          means for maintaining a list of identities associated with a user;
          means for receiving one or more emails from an entity and directed to the user;
          means for detecting one or more actions performed by the user on the received one or more emails from the entity, the user actions supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user;
          means for determining that [[an]]the entity is associated with the user based, at least in

part, on ~~the~~ detected ~~positive~~ user actions performed on the received one or more emails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user ~~related to e-mail communications with the entity~~;

means for adding the entity to the maintained list when the entity is determined to be associated with the use based, at least in part, on detected ~~positive user~~ actions performed on the received one or more emails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user ~~related to e-mail communications with the entity~~;

means for receiving one or more e-mails directed to the user;

means for identifying senders of the received e-mail;

means for comparing the identified senders to the maintained list of people associated with the user to determine which of the senders are included on the list; and

~~means for displaying a list of the e-mail to the user; and~~

~~means for sorting the displayed list based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list~~

means for controlling aspects of communications between the user and each identified sender based on the determination whether that identified sender is included in the maintained list.

40.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein detecting one or more actions performed by the user on the one or more emails from the entity, the user actions supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user includes detecting a combination of user actions performed on the one or more emails from the entity.

41   (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting one or more actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity, the user actions supporting an inference that the entity is not associated with the user;

wherein determining that the entity is associated with the user includes determining that the entity is associated with the user based at least in part, on the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that supports an inference that the entity is not associated with the user; and the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that support an inference that the entity is associated with the user.

42.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein

determining that the entity is associated with the user based, at least in part, on the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails that supports an inference that the entity is associated with the user includes:

associating a score with each of the detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity, the score indicating a strength of the action in supporting an inference that the entity is associated with the user;

aggregating the associated scores of detected actions performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity;

comparing the aggregated score with a threshold score; and

determining that the entity is associated with the user when the aggregated score exceeds the threshold score.

43.   (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising:

associating a negative score to an action performed by the user on the received one or more e-mails from the entity, the action supporting an inference that the entity is not associated with the user.

44.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein controlling aspects of communications between the user and senders based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list includes

displaying a list of the e-mails directed to the user; and

sorting the displayed list of e-mails based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list.

45.   (New) The computer-usable medium of claim 20 wherein control aspects of communications between the user and senders based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list includes

        display a list of the e-mails directed to the user; and

        sort the displayed list of e-mails based on which of the senders are included in the maintained list.